

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 29+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Hello Readers,

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them!

Lou from West Crossing writes: ***Dear Chief, On West Crossing Drive there are dividers in the road with trees separating the traffic going in both directions. If a school bus is stopped – with the stop paddles out - on the other side of where I'm driving, do I really need to stop? I have seen people drive on and have seen people stop. Which is correct?***

Hello Lou. The answer is "It depends."

Transportation Code Section 545.066 says that an operator on a **highway** (all of the road right of way between property lines on both sides of the street) shall stop before reaching the school bus when the lights are activated and shall not proceed until signaled by the driver or the lights are no longer actuated. That section goes on to say that an operator on a highway having separate roadways is not required to stop for the school bus on a different roadway.

Interpretation: On West Crossing Blvd, if the bus is stopped in an area where there are no breaks in the median and you are travelling on the opposite roadway, then you do not have to stop. If the bus is stopped at one of the access cuts (left turn lanes or median crossings) and is discharging the students in an area where pedestrians are allowed to cross both roadways, then you are required to stop. In either case, if you are approaching a school bus that is stopped, please slow down and watch for children and stop as needed.

To all drivers, if there are any doubts in your mind as to whether you are required, stop as far to the right as the roadway will allow, wait, and watch for children.

Reminder: Outdoor Storm Sirens Tested (weather permitting)
First Wednesday of the month @ 12 noon.

***Phone numbers: Dial 911 in an emergency.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov